

From: Skip Egdorf
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:42am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have many objections to the proposed Microsoft/DOJ antitrust settlement.

Foremost among these is the issue of allowing open-source development efforts access to Microsoft Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). The proposal only allows access to "business" parties where Microsoft gets to determine the "business" status. Microsoft has already stated that it considers open source systems such as the Linux operating system to not be valid "business" entities. Open source development efforts MUST be acknowledged in the settlement as a valid recipient of Microsoft information.

If Microsoft is allowed to remain intact as a monopoly, all of its programming interfaces, file formats, and network protocols MUST be considered to be freely available published standards. I am not a lawyer, but I believe that the guiding principle would be the notion of a critical facility controlled by a monopoly as described in the early 20'th century supreme court decision where a single railroad controlled all bridge traffic over the Mississippi river and that the monopoly must make such a critical resource available to all on an equal basis. The critical facility in this case is the published interface specifications to Microsoft's APIs, file formats, and network protocols.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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